

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE-MAKING

In accordance with Rhode Island General Law (RIGL) 42-35 and 42-72-5, notice is hereby given that the Department of Children, Youth and Families proposes to repeal the following DCYF rule:

Utilization of Psychotropic Medication in Emergency Situations

The provisions of this rule have been incorporated into the Residential Child Care Regulations for Licensure. In the repeal of this rule, consideration was given to the following: (1) alternative approaches and (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions. No alternative approach or duplication or overlap was identified based upon available information.

This repealed rule is accessible on the DCYF website (<http://www.dcyf.ri.gov>) or the R.I. Secretary of State's website (<http://www.sec.state.ri.us/ProposedRules/>) or available in hard copy upon request (401-528-3641). Interested persons should submit data, views or written comments by September 1, 2011, to Sarah St. Jacques, Department of Children, Youth and Families, 101 Friendship Street, Providence, RI 02903 (Sarah.St.Jacques@dcyf.ri.gov).

In accordance with RIGL 42-35-3, an oral hearing will be granted if requested by twenty-five (25) persons, by an agency or by an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within thirty (30) days of this notice.

~~Utilization of Psychotropic Medication in Emergency Situations~~

~~Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families~~

~~Policy: 1000.0030~~

~~Effective Date: Sept. 29, 1986~~

~~In order to prevent unnecessary utilization of psychotropic medication in residential care programs, all dispensing of this medication in emergency situations shall be monitored, documented, and reviewed. The purpose of this policy is to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the youngster in placement.~~

~~The initiation of psychotropic medication for behavioral management purposes presents possible risks to the youngster. Psychotropic medication shall be considered only when there is a situation of harm to self or others and when all other attempts to intervene and stabilize the crisis situation have either been tried and failed or have been diagnostically eliminated.~~

~~Psychotropic medication shall not be initiated unless the patient has been examined by a psychiatrist/physician. However, if the youngster is already receiving psychotropic medication which is prescribed and periodically reviewed by a treating psychiatrist, successful altering of the dose can be managed by a qualified psychiatric nurse reporting to the psychiatrist. All other situations demand direct assessment by a psychiatrist/physician.~~

~~It is the position of the Department that each residential care program have written procedures governing the administration of psychotropic medication in emergency situations. The requirements listed below shall be incorporated into the program's written procedures.~~

~~Related Procedures...~~

~~Emergency Assessment~~

~~Utilization Review~~